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STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 4, 2002

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents  
Public School Academy Directors  
Nonpublic School Superintendents

FROM: Tom Watkins

SUBJECT: Michigan School Support Person of the Year Award Program

It is a great honor for the State Board of Education and me to share the establishment of the Michigan School Support Person of the Year Award Program (SSPoY). Members of my staff, along with representatives of several support staff unions and education associations, have collaborated over the past several months to develop the process we will use to identify the outstanding support persons who make a difference in Michigan schools every day.

The purpose of the SSPoY Award is to honor outstanding support personnel for their contributions to the success of the learning community and to focus public attention on the importance of school support personnel. They are integral partners in ensuring optimal learning environments for our children.

Detailed information regarding the nomination and selection processes can be accessed on the Department's website at:  
[www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde)

Nomination portfolios are due to regional coordinators on November 1, 2002. For your convenience, the timeline for the 2002-2003 program is enclosed. Questions regarding the SSPoY Program may be addressed to Ms. Jean M. Shane at [shanej@michigan.gov](mailto:shanej@michigan.gov) or 517.241.2375. Regional coordinators will be determined as soon as possible and listed on the website.

I encourage you to join the effort to recognize exemplary school support staff.

Enclosure

cc: MEMSPA, MASSP, MASA,  
MAPSA, MEA, MFT, MANS,  
MASB, MSBO, AFSCME, UAW,  
Teamsters, United Steelworkers,  
Operating Engineers

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